

## CHEAP 'PHONES MAY COME, BUT NOT VERY SOON

Action of Board of Estimate Puts the Matter Over Until Fall.

### CLUB FOR OLD COMPANY

Proposal of \$12 Rate by New Concern May Force Monopoly to Terms.

The Board of Estimate and Apportionment today put over the application of the Atlantic Telephone Company for thirty days to see what the Trust proposes to do for the city. The city is now suing the telephone subsidiary company for something like \$500,000 for the use of the conduit, and is in other ways trying to force some concessions from the New York Telephone Company. The application of the Atlantic Telephone Company for permission to furnish a service at \$12 per annum in competition with the Trust's service at \$6, puts a weapon in the hands of the city that the Board of Estimate is trying to use.

Everybody was expecting a big fight, and the council chamber was so crowded that several hearings had to be adjourned to the Aldermanic chamber to clear the room sufficiently to give the board breathing space.

Mr. Littleton was not present to represent the Atlantic Company, as the bridge loop of the Williamsburg and Brooklyn Bridge was first on the calendar, but that was skipped and the telephone matter taken up next.

Wouldn't Hear Arguments. Former Comptroller Grout represented the New York Telephone Company and J. A. L. Campbell represented the Atlantic Company, but the board declined to hear argument on the ground that nothing was before it but the report of the Committee of the Whole.

The report was in the form of a resolution calling on the New York Telephone Company to make an application for a franchise and a surrender of the conduits with confession of judgment in the suit now pending against the subsidiary company.

Members of the Board, it is said, had repeatedly given Mr. Littleton public assurances that the proposition of his company to furnish telephone service at \$12 per annum should not be used as a club to force terms from the trust. The recommendation of the committee of the whole was that the Atlantic Company and its company to mean that and nothing more, and they were prepared to make a fight for the pledges which they contended had been given them, but they did not have a chance to make a move. The whole discussion in the Board was carried on in whispers, and an apparently heated discussion between the Mayor and Comptroller Metz the motion to lay the matter over, being a reply from the New York Telephone Company was carried by a unanimous vote.

Goes Over Until Fall. Thirty days carries the matter over to July 15. The Board adjourns for the summer July 6 and will not meet again until Sept. 11 unless urgent business arises which necessitates a special called meeting. It is argued that thirty days given the New York Telephone Company is equivalent to ninety days' delay against the Atlantic Company, and that cheap phones for the city of New York are as far in the future as ever.

The proposition that may be made by the New York Telephone Company cannot be considered until the fall, and in the mean time the Atlantic Association will remain in existence. Mr. Metz was opposed to the extension of the time. He wanted the Board to take action today on the application of the Atlantic Company. He had repeatedly said in meetings of the Board that he would not allow the proposal of the Atlantic Company to be used against it, and he tried to make a stand against the Mayor.

"I want to offer a resolution that the franchise be granted to the Atlantic Company on terms and conditions to be agreed upon by the Board of Estimate," he said.

"I am not prepared to vote on such a motion," said the Mayor, "that would bind the city and give them a cause of action."

"I don't see that at all," said the Comptroller.

Mayor Fears a Suit. "You give them an inchoate franchise if you adopt that resolution, and I am not prepared to go that far," said the Mayor. "Let us dispose of this resolution first."

Again Mr. Metz protested in a whisper. "I represent a third corporation here," said Mayor McClellan. "The city of New York."

"Not any more than I do," retorted Mr. Metz.

"I move the resolution," said Borough President Ahearn, and after some more talk in whispers the motion was put and carried. Metz voting in the affirmative with the rest. He explained later that the matter would have had to lay over under the law thirty days before action was taken, and he saw that nothing could be done at this time to hurry matters, but he reiterated his former statements that the company which has offered the low rates which are now being used to bring the New York and New Jersey and New York Telephone Company to terms shall not suffer by reason of its offer.

## GIRL BURNED IN GARAGE DIES OF HER INJURIES.

(Special to The Evening World.)

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Three other girls who were injured will recover.

The party had been on an automobile ride and stopped at the garage to get a fresh supply of gasoline.

When the tank had been filled and the cover about to be placed on it, there was an explosion and a sheet of flame shot up. Miss Gutman was seated in the car and the oil splattered over her clothing and before she realized it she was a mass of flames.

A man in the place seized an extinguisher and turned the fluid on the burning child, but before the fire was put out she had been horribly burned.

Julius Baunders, a colored man who filled the tank, was looked up after the accident and is still held by the police.

## SKIPPER'S RIDE ON FREIGHT CAR COST HIS LIFE

Lay Helpless with Broken Leg as Engine Bore Down Upon Him.

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Capt. Felling was a big strong man in the prime of life, sixty-three years old, had been for several years master of the schooner Emma R. with a reputation as a skilful and plucky skipper.

The Emma R. is red at the foot of West Forty-ninth street. Every day Capt. Felling, in his schooner, accompanied by John J. Murphy, of No. 98 Eleventh avenue, as they turned into Eleventh avenue a freight train going their way lumbered along.

"Let's take a free ride," said Felling to Murphy.

The next seized the hand grips on the sides of the cars and easily drew themselves up the iron ladders until their heads were level with the roof. There they hung until they had reached thirteenth street. A brakeman saw them and ordered them off. They jumped to the earth together.

Murphy landed without mishap, but Felling's left ankle twisted under him as he dropped and the bone snapped. He tried to rise and then as the injured limb gave way under him he rolled back across the next set of tracks right in front of a switch engine.

Engineer John Graham at the throttle of the locomotive saw the well-lighted helpless man collapse between the rails and he did his best to stop, but the engine was moving at too brisk a rate. The wheels caught Felling's right leg just below the knee and severed it. He screamed once and fainted.

Men at work in the yards applied rough compresses to the stump of the limb in an effort to staunch the blood. But Dr. Dwight could get there with an ambulance.

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## SHIP AFIRE, CREW GONE, BOATS UNTOUCHED

SEATTLE, Wash., June 15.—The gasoline schooner Argus is burning thirty-five miles off Deception Island and, according to Capt. J. E. Bridgett, of the steamer Asuncion, a Pacific Oil Company's line steamer, it is not likely that the crew will be heard from. Capt. Bridgett thinks the crew were blown up in an explosion which caused the fire. He said he went alongside the Argus, and at that time the vessel's hull and bow were burned away. The

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